

For adults and children in the garden or outdoor space

Ice Lanterns

Natural England wants to give a million children the chance to discover the outdoors. The natural world is a fascinating place to explore and our natural habitats together with the creatures and plants that live there can provide endless sources of fun. From your own back yard to the wilds of our national nature reserves, now is the time to make the most of the outdoors and go wild!

Together with Fiona Danks and Jo Schofield (www.goingwild.net), authors of Nature's Playground, Go Wild and Make it Wild (www.franceslincoln.com), we've produced these fantastic activity sheets to give you plenty of ideas of what you can get up to, what are you waiting for?



Imagine your garden lit up on a freezing winter's night, not with fairy lights but with the soft glow of magical natural ice lanterns! Make them to welcome friends to a party or encourage everyone to venture outside to discover the thrills of a freezing winter's evening. These are ideal activities for the icy weather but, if there isn't a cold snap, have a go at making them in the deep freeze instead.

Making the ice lanterns

- Half fill the larger container with water
- Place the smaller container in the water and weigh it down with stones
- Slide leaves or seed heads down into the water between the containers as decoration.
- To make a larger lantern for two or more candles, put several plastic cups filled with stones inside a larger container of water.





- Leave the prepared containers outside on a very cold night, or place them in a deep freeze for 12 to 24 hours
- When frozen place the mould in warm water to loosen the ice.
- Place a night light in each lantern and enjoy!

Making bigger ice lanterns

Have a go at making a free standing ice lantern – all you need is a bucket and three sturdy sticks. Fill the bucket with water and position three sticks in it so that they will form a tripod. Leave out overnight in freezing cold weather – the water should freeze on the surface and down the sides of the bucket. Carefully remove the ice and sticks from the bucket; turn the whole lot over and you should be left with a freestanding ice container. Place night-lights inside and enjoy while it lasts.

Safety tips

- Make sure fingers don't get stuck on very cold ice
- Don't let children use candles unsupervised

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